

# SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

DR. GEORGE BLAND,

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF MACCLESFIELD,

CONTAINING THE

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1878.



ORDERED BY THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH TO BE PRINTED  
AND CIRCULATED.

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE  
BOROUGH OF MACCLESFIELD,  
YEAR ENDING DEC. 31ST, 1878.**

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my sixth Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Macclesfield.

As in the former reports, I propose to divide this into two parts, devoting the first to a short account of the Sanitary progress made during the year, and the second to the Vital Statistics of the Borough.

**PART I.**

Although I have not to report the commencement or completion of any large Sanitary undertaking of a costly nature during the year—the main intercepting Sewer and the Infectious Diseases Hospital not yet being accomplished facts—yet considerable activity has been displayed in removing nuisances, many of long standing, which neglected or remedied often constitutes the sole difference between a healthy and an unhealthy locality. No less than 722 nuisances having been removed during the past twelve months, many of these were nuisances arising from defective drainage, others from dilapidated closets, and others again arose from the keeping of pigs and other animals in unsuitable places, and in such a manner as to be injurious to health.

The principal improvements in *drainage* have been : (1) in Hollins Road, where a 9-inch main sewer has been constructed, and the back yards to property on both sides of the road have been drained. (2) In the Market Place, Unicorn Gateway and Church side, the back yards and cellars have been newly drained into the new deep 12-inch sewer in the Market Place, and all old stone soughs and, cesspools removed. (3) In the neighbourhood of Hayes Yard the property has been drained into the new culvert which has been constructed in Whalley Hayes. (4) The houses at the South end of the Water Cotes have been drained into a new 9-inch pipe sewer instead of the old rubble sough, which was found to be blocked up with dirt.

*New Closets*, to the number of 148, were erected in place of others which were dilapidated, or faulty.

*Filthy Houses*.—130 houses were, on inspection, found to be dirty and unwholesome. They were cleansed and lime-washed.

*Common Lodging Houses*.—There are in Macclesfield 15 common lodging houses, licensed for 272 lodgers. During the year they have accommodated 49,285 nightly lodgers, being an average of 136 each night. These houses have been regularly inspected by Mr. Drew both by day and night, and as a rule have been found to be well conducted. It was necessary, however, to summon two lodging-house keepers for breach of the bye-laws.

*Slaughter Houses*.—These are 26 in number ; they have been regularly inspected, and found to be well conducted.

*Diseased Meat, &c.*—2,160 lbs. of diseased meat, 140 lbs. of fruit and vegetables, and 345 lbs. of cheese were condemned and destroyed as unfit for the food of man.

*Adulteration of Food, &c.*—In the appendix will be found a list of samples submitted by the Inspector to the Borough Analyst for examination, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

#### TABLE I.

Abstract of work done in the Sanitary Department, year ending December 31st, 1878 :

Number of nuisances remaining unremoved January 1st, 1878	860
Number of nuisances entered on the books during the year.....	312

Number of nuisances removed.....	450
Number remaining unremoved 31st December, 1878 .....	722
Number of houses inspected .....	2350
Houses inspected on account of infectious diseases .....	136
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases .....	115
Number of peremptory notices under the seal of the Board:	
To repair or cleanse house drains.....	68
To provide proper and sufficient privy accommodation	151
To remove other nuisances .....	115
	—
	Total 334
Number of houses drained .....	159
Slopstone pipes disconnected from the sewer .....	179
New closets erected .....	148
Visits paid to common lodging houses .....	921
,, ,,, slaughter houses ... ..	1318
Supplies of lime-wash granted to the poor .....	257
Brushes lent for applying the same .....	231
Supplies of disinfectants given to the poor .....	194
Number of summonses issued :	
Public Health Act .....	15
Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.....	2
Common Lodging Houses Bye Laws ..	2
	—
	Total 19

TABLE II.

Number of loads of night-soil and rubbish taken from the streets during the years 1872-78.

Year.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Total.
1872.....	1634	1087	653	1632	5006
1873.....	2113	1564	2295	1961	7933
1874 .....	3660	2143	1092	1987	8882
1875.....	3228	3007	1226	2523	9984
1876.....	3753	2053	1645	2384	9835
1877.....	3309	2786	1338	1382	8815
1878.....	3024	2855	1506	2177	9562

## PART II.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1878.

TABLE III.

Table showing birth rate, death rate, and rate of mortality from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases during the past six years.

Years.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Death Rate from the seven Zymotic Diseases
1873.....	35·7	26·1	1·7
1874.....	33·4	26·6	3·5
1875.....	35·2	25·0	2·4
1876.....	35·2	28·1	6·0
1877.....	34·3	20·2	2·1
1878.....	31·9	23·8	2·3

## BIRTHS.

The number of children born alive within the Borough of Macclesfield during 1878 was 1,166, being ninety-nine less than the previous year. The births exceeded the deaths by 224, which is therefore the *natural* increase of the population ; the *actual* increase being controlled by immigration and emigration. The births were equal to a birth rate of 31·9 per thousand of the population ; the birth rate of all England being 34·0 per thousand.

TABLE IV.

Showing the number of births and of illegitimate births in the four districts of the Borough.

Districts.	Including Illegitimate Births.			Illegitimate Births.		
	Total	Males.	Females	Males	Females	Total
West Macclesfield.....	488	237	251	15	20	35
East Macclesfield .....	368	186	182	21	20	41
Sutton .....	196	102	94	7	9	16
Hurdsfield .....	114	66	48	3	2	5
 Total .....	1166	591	575	46	51	97

The births were unevenly distributed ; the birth rate being as high as 38.0 in Sutton, and as low as 28.3 in West Macclesfield ; East Macclesfield having a birth rate of 34.9 per thousand, and Hurdsfield 30.9. (See table VII.)

TABLE V.

Showing the number of births, and of illegitimate births in each quarter of the year.

Quarters.	Including Illegitimate Births.			Illegitimate Births.		
	Total.	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Total.
First Quarter.....	315	154	161	11	13	24
Second Quarter .....	297	156	141	13	10	23
Third Quarter.....	291	149	142	13	14	27
Fourth Quarter .....	263	132	131	9	14	23
 Total.....	1166	591	575	46	51	97

The birth rates of the quarters were in a descending scale, being 34.8 per thousand of the population during the first quarter of the year, 32.2 during the second, 31.6 during the third, and 28.8 during the fourth. (See table IX.)

## SEX.

Of the 1166 live births, 591 were boys and 575 girls. As a rule 104 boys are born to each hundred girls ; this year female births were slightly in excess.

## CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK.

Ninety-seven births were illegitimate children, being a little more than eight per cent. of the whole births. As compared with previous years there is a slight diminution in the rate of illegitimacy.

### DEATHS.

The remarkable diminution in the death rate which was noticed in the previous year (1877) was not maintained during 1878. In the former year the deaths numbered 792, the death rate being 20.2 per thousand of the population; in the latter the deaths were 942 in number, equal to a mortality rate of 23.8. This rate, though higher than the preceding year, is, as will be seen by reference to Table III., much lower than death rates of the years 1873-6.

The death rate for the year was higher than that of the country generally, the rate of mortality for all England being 21.7 per thousand.

### DISTRICT MORTALITY.

TABLE VI.

Showing the number of births and deaths, and of deaths from certain specified causes in the four districts of the Borough.

DISTRICTS.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.	DEATHS OF		DEATHS FROM									Inquest Cases.	Deaths in Public Institutions.
			Children under one year of age.	Persons aged 60 years and upwards.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Cholera.	Violence.		
West Macclesf'd*	488	506	91	171	...	2	7	...	10	9	8	...	14	21	141
Area 1716 acres															
Population 17,238															
East Macclesfield	368	243	83	53	...	...	4	2	8	3	5	...	5	12	..
Area 881 acres															
Population 10,520															
Sutton,	196	128	39	30	1	2	13	...	4	...	3	...	2	5	...
Area 360 acres															
Population 5,140															
Hurdsfield,	114	65	17	18	...	...	1	...	2	2	1	...	1	3	...
Area 274 acres															
Population 3,683															
Total.....	1166	942	230	272	1	4	25	2	24	14	17	0	22	41	141

\* Including the deaths in the Chester County Lunatic Asylum, Park-side, the Macclesfield Union Workhouse, and the Macclesfield Infirmary. For details of the deaths in public institutions see Table XI.

TABLE VII.

Showing the birth rate, death rate, and rate of the seven chief Zymotic Diseases per 1,000, the per centage of deaths of children to births registered, and the analysis of the mortality in the four districts of the borough. (Allowance being made for the deaths in public institutions.)

DISTRICTS.	Rates per thousand.			Percentge. of deaths of Childrn. under 12 months old, to Births registered	Per centage to total Deaths.		
	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from the seven chief Zymotic Diseases.		Deaths of Children under twelve months old.	Deaths of People aged sixty years and upwards.	Deaths from the seven chief Zymotic Diseases.
West Macclesfield . . . .	28·3	21·8	1·9	18·0	24·3	32·0	9·0
East Macclesfield . . . .	34·9	25·8	2·0	22·5	34·1	22·5	9·0
Sutton..... . . . .	38·0	26·7	4·4	20·0	30·4	23·4	17·9
Hurdsfield .. . . .	30·9	20·1	1·6	14·9	26·1	27·0	9·2

Of the four districts into which the Borough is for the purposes of these mortality returns divided, West Macclesfield usually has the lowest death rate, but this year the post of honour is held by Hurdsfield, whose death rate is 20·1, the death rate of West Macclesfield being 21·8, East Macclesfield 25·8, and Sutton as high as 26·7 per thousand.

Sutton suffered the most severely from zymotic diseases—hence its high rate of mortality—the death rate from preventable causes alone being 4·4 per thousand, whereas in the other districts it was as low as 2·0 in East Macclesfield, 1·9 in West Macclesfield, and 1·6 in Hurdsfield.

The infantile death rate was, as usual, highest in East Macclesfield. In this district, of each hundred children born alive twenty-two died before they were twelve months old, in Sutton twenty, in West Macclesfield eighteen, in Hurdsfield fourteen. All these figures are higher than the preceding year.

Of deaths among the aged, the greatest proportionate mortality occurred in West Macclesfield and Hurdsfield. Of each hundred deaths in these districts, thirty-two and twenty-seven respectively were people sixty years of age and upwards; in Sutton and East Macclesfield the proportions were twenty-two and twenty-three.

I am of opinion that the figures quoted above afford evidence of the improved sanitary state of Hurdsfield, where most of the closets have been re-built or re-modelled on an improved system, with covered ash-pits, and other nuisances, many of long standing, been removed. The statistics in Tables VI. and VII. also point to the continued unsatisfactory state of East Macclesfield, where the infant mortality continues much too high.

### MORTALITY AS TO SEASONS.

TABLE VIII.

Showing the number of births and deaths, and deaths from certain specified causes during each quarter of the year 1878.

Quarters.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths of		Deaths from							Deaths in Public Institutions.			
			Children under one year old.	Persons aged 60 yrs. and upwards.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Cholera.			
First Quarter ...	315	246	55	68	...	2	11	...	1	4	...	...	4	9	41
Second Quarter	297	236	56	68	1	...	7	...	9	4	...	...	4	11	35
Third Quarter ...	291	210	54	59	...	1	3	2	4	4	16	...	8	10	31
Fourth Quarter	263	250	65	77	...	1	4	...	10	2	1	...	6	11	34
Total.....	1166	942	230	272	1	4	25	2	24	14	17	0	22	41	141

TABLE IX.

Showing the birth rate, death rate, and rate of the seven principal Zymotic Diseases per thousand of the population; the per-cent-age of infantile deaths to births registered ; and the analysis of mortality during each quarter of the year 1878.

Quarter	Rates per thousand.			Per-cent-age of Infantile Deaths to Births registered	Per-centages to Total Deaths.		
	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths from the seven chief Zymotic Diseases		Deaths of children under twelve months old	Deaths of Persons aged 60 years and upwards	Deaths from the seven chief Zymotic Diseases
First Quarter .....	34·8	24·6	1·9	17·4	22·3	27·6	7·3
Second Quarter ...	32·2	25·0	2·2	18·8	23·7	28·8	8·8
Third Quarter .....	31·6	20·6	3·2	18·5	25·7	28·0	14·2
Fourth Quarter ...	28·8	25·4	1·9	24·5	26·0	30·8	7·2

The weather has always an influence on the relative mortality of the four quarters of the year. During the first quarter of the year the weather was generally favourable to the public health, excepting a moderately cold period early in February, the temperature was unusually high. The death rate was 24·6 per thousand or nearly three per thousand below the average of the corresponding quarters of previous years.

The weather during the second quarter was cold, wet and ungenial (except a warm period from the middle of April to the second week of May) and the rainfall excessive. The death rate was 25·0, being 5 per thousand above the death rate of all England. but slightly below the average of corresponding quarters of former years.

July was for the most part cool and cloudy ; in August the temperature was higher than usual, and the rainfall abundant ; September was dry and cool. The death rate of the quarter was low—20·6—being the same as that for all England, and 1 per thousand lower than the average.

In the fourth quarter the weather was fine until the third week in October when winter began, and continued during the remainder of the year. The temperature was excessively low, and there were frequent falls of rain, sleet and snow. The death rate throughout the country was raised ; in Macclesfield it was 25·4. This quarter was particularly fatal to the young and the aged.

#### MORTALITY AS TO SEX AND AGE.

The 942 deaths comprise 507 males and 435 females. Calculating that the males constitute 49 per cent., and the females 51 per cent. of the population, the rate of mortality among males will be 26·5 per thousand, and 20·6 per thousand among females.

*Infantile Mortality.*—According to the Registrar General's reports of each hundred children born alive in England, fifteen die under twelve months old ; the proportion varies from ten in the healthy rural districts to twenty-five in the most unhealthy and densely populated towns. With the exception of the year 1877, when there was a remarkable decrease in the infantile mortality throughout the country, Macclesfield has always had a high rate of mortality among children. In 1878 the infantile death rate of this Borough was 19 per cent. of the registered births, or 4 per cent. higher than that of the country generally ; in 1877 it was as low as 11 per cent., and in 1876 as high as 21 per cent. The increased mortality among children, as compared with the previous year, may in part be accounted for by the extremely unfavourable weather which prevailed during the fourth quarter of the year, but also points to the continued unsatisfactory state of Sutton and East Macclesfield, in which districts the infantile death rate was excessive.

*Deaths at the Reproductive Age.*—251 deaths took place at this age (15-45.) Consumption and Heart Disease being the most fruitful sources of death.

*Deaths of aged People*—272 persons died aged sixty years and upwards, being 28 per cent. of the whole deaths.

#### MORTALITY AS TO DISEASE.

##### CLASS I.—*Zymotic Diseases.*

The whole class of Zymotic Diseases includes 107 deaths, of which 87 are referred to what are commonly known as the seven chief Zymotic Diseases. The rate per thousand of deaths from these seven causes was 2·4 in 1875, rose as high as 6·0 in 1876, fell to 2·1 in 1877, and slightly rose again in 1878 to 2·3. This rate is below that of all England, which is 3·3 per thousand.

TABLE X.

Showing the number of deaths from the seven chief Zymotic Diseases during the years 1873-8.

DISEASE.	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878
Small Pox .....	0	0	0	6	0	1
Measles .....	3	26	1	85	7	4
Scarlet Fever .....	5	11	31	65	37	25
Diphtheria .....	1	0	2	0	0	2
Typhus .....	3	1	0	2	1	1
Fever { Typhoid or Enteric...	8	12	13	7	7	11
Continued .....	4	6	4	1	1	2
Diarrhoea .....	34	49	32	27	18	17
Whooping Cough .....	6	25	5	27	6	24
Total.....	64	130	88	220	77	87

The only death from *Smallpox* during the year was that of an unvaccinated young man, who probably caught the infection in London. He was strictly isolated in his own house, and after death the bed and bedding were destroyed, and the house thoroughly and properly disinfected. The disease did not spread.

Four deaths were caused by *Measles*.

*Scarlet Fever* is credited with twenty-five deaths; thirteen of which occurred in Sutton. Since August, 1875, this disease has never been entirely absent from the borough, but its ravages have been less fatal this year than in the two previous ones. It seems impossible to effectually prevent epidemics of Scarlet Fever until it is made compulsory on the householder to report each case as soon as his medical attendant certifies to him the nature of the disease. Compulsory registration of infectious sickness is now being carried out by several large towns, which have been empowered by special Acts of Parliament, with most excellent results. It not only enables the Sanitary Authority to avert epidemics by the timely adoption of preventive measures, but it also has the salutary effect of impressing on the public the fact that infection is a thing to be prevented by all possible means. To the compulsory notification of infectious sickness should be added the power and the means of enforcing isolation. As I have so often stated in these reports

it is utterly impossible to adequately isolate a case of infectious sickness in most of the houses in this borough, and the only feasible means of doing so is by the erection of a Fever Hospital, which should always be ready to receive the initial case of every infectious disease. It is not at all uncommon to find that the only "precautions" taken to prevent the spread of Scarlet Fever consist in placing a couple of saucers full of chloride of lime in the sick room, or occasionally sprinkling the floor with a little carbolic acid ; the window most probably is kept carefully closed, the carpets and curtains are unremoved, neighbours and friends are encouraged to visit the patient, and the inmates of the house go to the factory or to school in clothes which have been in contact with the infected one, or after passing the night in the sick chamber. Possibly before desquamation ceases the infected children will be encouraged to play with the neighbour's family, on the plea that it is "only the scarlatina." What wonder that Scarlet Fever is so difficult to eradicate !

Two deaths from *Diphtheria* were registered. This is a disease which depends on local sanitary defects.

To the various forms of *Fever* fourteen deaths are referred. Eleven of these were cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever, one death was from Typhus Fever, and two were registered as due to simple continued Fever.

*Diarrhoea* caused seventeen deaths, a decrease on previous years.

Twenty-four deaths were due to *Whooping Cough*. It appears from Table X. that this disease is prevalent in a fatal form in alternate years.

Among other diseases of this class are noticed one death from Erysipelas, six from Rheumatic Fever, two from Hereditary Syphilis, and four from Alcoholism or direct fatal results of excessive drinking.

#### CLASS II.—*Constitutional Diseases.*

Constitutional diseases are divided into two orders, Diathetic and Tubercular.

Diathetic diseases number 31 deaths, including 28 from Cancer of various parts of the body, two from Mortification, and one from Dropsy.

Tubercular diseases caused 129 deaths. Of this number, 82 were due to Phthisis (Consumption), being much below the average of previous years ; 26 were due to Tabes Mesenterica, 18 to Hydrocephalus (Water on the Brain), and 3 to Scrofula.

### CLASS III.—*Local Diseases.*

This class comprises the local inflammations and all other well defined local affections of the eight great and important systems of organs of the human frame. 474 deaths are included in this class.

*Diseases of the Nervous System* are credited with 159 deaths. 39 of these deaths were due to Convulsions, 33 to Paralysis, 24 to Apoplexy, 18 to Epilepsy, 12 to Inflammation of the Brain and its membranes, and 33 to other forms of Brain disease, chiefly Softening of the Brain.

*Diseases of the Heart and Organs of Circulation* caused 79 deaths.

*Diseases of the Organs of Respiration* were fatal to 174 lives, a marked increase on previous years. Of these 120 succumbed to Bronchitis, the most fatal of all diseases during the year, and 47 to Pneumonia (Inflammation of the Lungs), and 7 to other forms of Lung disease.

*Diseases of the Digestive System* caused 38 deaths. In 25 cases the Stomach and Intestines were affected, in 15 deaths the Liver was the seat of disease.

*Diseases of the Urinary Organs* are credited with 12 deaths, of which 8 were due to Bright's Disease, 3 to Diabetes, and 1 to Cystitis.

*Diseases of the Organs of Generation, of the Organs of Locomotion, and of the Integumentary System* were fatal to 7, 4 lives, and 1 life respectively.

### CLASS IV.—*Developmental Diseases.*

These are the diseases incidental to Development, Growth, Old Age, and Nutrition.

(1)—The Development Diseases of childhood were fatal to 36 lives, including 18 children prematurely born, and 7 who were malformed, and 11 who died from the effects of Teething.

(2)—Two mothers died during or after childbirth, a very small proportion considering that in the same period over 1,100 children were born alive.

(3)—“Old Age” was certified to be the cause of death in 50 instances.

(4)—51 persons died from Atrophy or gradual wasting away, in which the cause of the waste was not stated in the death certificate.

CLASS V.—*Violent Deaths.*

22 persons died violent deaths; two were suicides, the remainder were accidents.

*Causes not Specified.*—27 deaths come under this category, most of them were registered after a Coroner's Inquisition as due to "Natural Causes."

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Taken as a whole, the health of the Borough during the year has been fairly good, excepting the mortality from Scarlet Fever in Sutton, and the heavy fatality from pulmonary disease during the severe winter months. Unfortunately too the low rate of infant mortality which prevailed in the previous year has not been maintained. The decreasing birth-rate may also cause some little anxiety, as affording evidence of the removal from the town of the young and active bread-winners, in consequence of the bad state of the staple trade.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BLAND,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*To the Local Board of Health,  
Macclesfield.*



## APPENDIX.

## LIST OF SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO THE ANALYST.

No. of Sample.	Date.	Article.	Analyst's Report.	Result of Proceeding
13	11th July, 1878.	Irish Whiskey	10 per cent. added Water.	None
14	Do.	Gin	22·6 per cent. added Water.	None
15	Do.	Beer	Genuine	None
16	Do.	Scotch Whiskey	23 per cent. added Water.	None
17	Do.	Gin	27 per cent. added Water.	None
18	Do.	Beer	Genuine	None
19	18th Nov., 1878.	Water	Pure	None





**TABLE of DEATHS during the Year 1878, in the Urban  
LOCALITIES, and showing also the Population of**

E XI.

*District of Macclesfield, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and Localities, and the Births therein during the year.*

*(Local Government Board Form.)*

